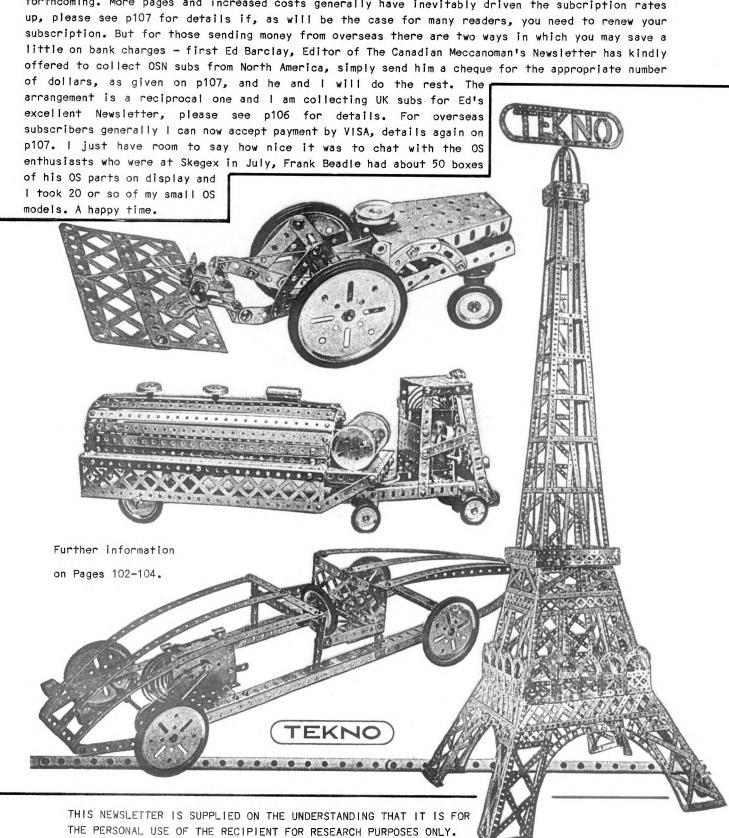


## OTHER UT SYSTEMS **NEWSLETTER**

OSN 5 October 1991 Editor

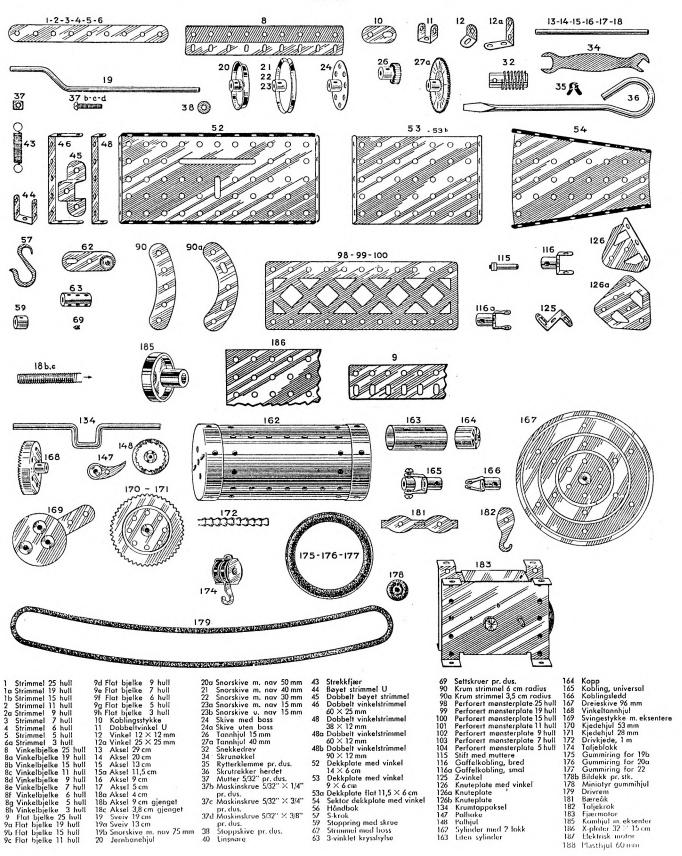
Tony Knowles 7 Potters Way Laverstock Salisbury. SP1 1PY. England.

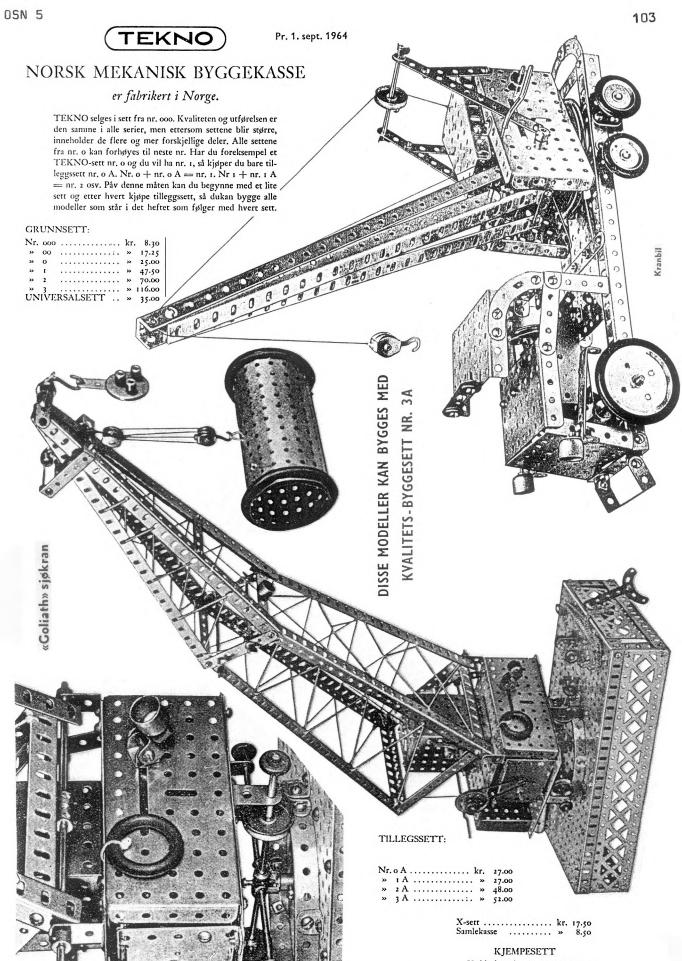
EDITORIAL TEKNO has nearly crowded me out so just a brief mention of some practial matters. This issue is larger at 32 pages and I hope to maintain that size in future if enough material is forthcoming. More pages and increased costs generally have inevitably driven the subcription rates



NEW FACTS - TEKNO Brief details of this Norwegian system are included in MCS(FB) but more information is now available from a Price List and Manual that Pat Crozier-Cole lent me. He came across them in Norway in about 1970 and bought one part, a No 52 Flanged Plate, as a souvenir, but at least it does prove that the hole spacing is  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Reproduced below is the illustrated list of parts from the manual, the Price List shows exactly the same. As can be seen the parts mostly resemble 1930's style MECCANO but there are quite a few variations like the eccentric, Part 185, and 186 which, from the models in the manual, seems to be a fully perforated plate, 11x25 holes (see the Floating Crane opposite). The 2" and 3" Pulleys, 20a and 19b, are not illustrated but again from the models in the manual, the 2" has 4 holes while the 19b is to the MECCANO pattern (see opposite and the front cover). There are two motors, the CW one shown and an electric (PN 187), but only the CW is used in any of the models in the manual. [cont on p104]

## DELER





Hobbybygging for far og sønn.

Nr. K. 1. Eifeltårn . . kr. 120.00 | Nr. K. III Heisekran m/d grabb kr. 185.00 | Nr. K. 2 Havnekran » 135.00 | Nr. K. IV. Gravemask. » 195.00

TEKNO A.S EN GROS-FORHANDLER THORMOD WALDERHAUG A.S Two models from Sets 3+3A are shown on the previous page together with parts of the Price List (top left and bottom right). It is dated Sept 1964 and lists 6 basic outfits 000-3 plus an add-on 3A and various others - K.1 to K.IV look as if they may be sets to build individual models.

The manual shows models from the 00 outfit to the 3A and although they are not by any means copies of early 1930's MECCANO models, many of them, particularly the vehicles, have the same skeletal look to them. One model, a helicopter, would not have been a prewar model. The illustrations are halftone and some of them are not very clear and leave quite a bit of mechanical detail to be worked out by the builder. The front cover includes a small photo of the largish loco that is illustrated in MCS, and the back cover shows a selection of models, some of which are shown on the front cover of this issue. Perhaps the Tower is from the K.1 set?

## SUMMARY OF MANUAL

#Name: TEKNO #Details of maker: none #Dates or Ref Nos: none #Page size: 300x210mm deep #No of pages: 16 plus 4 unnumbered covers #Language: Norwegian #Printing: All halftone except line drawings of Illustrated Parts. Cover mostly in shades of blue & grey with yellow band at bottom. #Page nos of Parts List & highest PN: 16,iii. 188 #Page nos of Set Contents & highest PN: none #Sets covered: 00-3A #No of models for each set: 14,17,14,9,6,2 #Name, model no, page no of first and last model of each set: NB. No model nos. 00: Vedsager 1, Tenner 2. 0: Personvogn 3, Boretarn 5. 1: Vifte 6, Mixmaster 8.



2: Verksted 9, Gravemaskin.10. 3: Brannbil 11, Rambukk 13. 3A: "Goliath" sjokran 14(page not numbered), Kranbil 15. #Other notes: Back cover shows large "Eiffel" Tower & 6 other models.

EXHIBITION OF OTHER SYSTEMS AT GLOUCESTER Following the successful exhibition of Malcolm Hanson's "Building Toys" at the Gloucester Folk Museum last year, there is now to be a similar event but this time of Malcolm's "mechanical" Other Systems. These will be on show at the Museum between 14th December next and 29th March 1992, and there will be some 40 exhibits of sets/models. Among them will be some of the better known UK systems such as TRIX, PREMIER and VOGUE, early ones like STRUCTATOR and ARKIRECTO (the mechanical side of it), and foreign sets including STABIL, CONDOR and ERECTOR. There will also be a number of rare UK sets including TECNIKIT, the EMPIRE EDUCATIONAL KIT, CLIFFIX, MEX, and PA-DI-CA-CO, and DIY sets represented by JUNEERO, MANUFAX and PRESTACON. And in case you wonder what all this and much more besides is going to cost, admission is free: details of opening times etc from the Museum on 0452 26467.

ERECTOR 1991 As mentioned in OSN 3 MECCANO now own the ERECTOR name and since then ERECTOR has been relaunched in the USA. Ed Barclay has sent an 8 page brochure for the new, 1991, range of sets - the front cover shows a red (flexible type) plate, 9x13 holes (with a hole spacing of approximately 15mm), which



has the 2 panels, shown right, on it. The sets included are JUNIOR (plastic) ERECTOR Sets A and B, BASIC ERECTOR sets 1 to 4, ADVANCED ERECTOR Sets 5 and 6, and ULTIMATE ERECTOR, Set 10. All the sets look identical to the standard Calais range but the boxes have the MECCANO/ERECTOR badge, as on the front cover of the brochure.

It is a bright, attractive brochure with some nice models illustrated and includes a short introduction from "Dominique Duvauchelle,



President, Meccano/Erector". No model is shown from the No 10 set but it does say that apart from manual models there are enough parts in the set to build "any of the 1,500,000,000 you're bound to think up on your own".

More on Norwegian TEKNO Some notes about this system, as it was around 1964-70, appeared in 5/102, and now more has emerged, thanks to Alf Jacob Munthe. He had some TEKNO as a boy, c1950, and the big surprise is that, at least then, the parts were unpainted aluminium. Alf sent copies of various items including, from about 1950, a Price List, and the covers & Illustrated Parts from a manual. However as will be explained, the range of parts in the Manual's Illustrated Parts is most likely to date from before those in the Price List, and to avoid confusion I'll call the Manual '1940s' & the Price List '1950s'.

The Sets The first reference Alf has to TEKNO is a



1935 ad from a shop called Ingwald Nielsen in Oslo. Four outfits were listed: 00-2, plus linking sets 0A & 1A. The box shown has a label similar to the 1940s Manual cover left, but with the set number in the ball the crane is carrying. The 1940s Manual has the

earlier sets plus a No.3, & a 2A, and the 1950s List has in addition, an 'X' accessory set.

140 items are included in the 1940s The Parts Illustrated Parts. They have MECCANO PNs and go to #166. Most of the basic parts from the pre-WW2 MECCANO range up to #166 are included, among them all the A/Gs except the 37 & 49h; all the Flat & Braced Girders; and the cylindrical parts 162-164. Absent are: all the Gears except the  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Pinion, the  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Gear, & the Worm; the large circular parts; most brassware except the Collar & Coupling; and many of the 'engineering' parts. None of the 'loom' & 'railway' parts are present but included are the Woodscrew #68, the Weights 66 & 67, and the Ship's Funnel 138a.

It is thought that the set contents up to this time followed those of the equivalent MECCANO outfits from the late 1920s or early 1930s, and this may in part explain the TEKNO range of parts. For instance the 'boiler' parts, and the Swivel & End Bearings, were in Meccano's No.3. The Ship's Funnel is another such part and it is interesting that it was included in Meccano's No.3 Set in 1927-30, but not thereafter. An indication of TEKNO's start date perhaps.

The 1950s Price List has only 82 parts including four not in the 1940s Illustrated Parts: the Large, Medium, & Small Rubber Wheels (Gummihjul), and a Miniatyrhjul, perhaps #178 in the 1960s. They have been added to the bottom of the Price List, without PNs.

With only one or two exceptions, and apart from the unnumbered parts, the range of parts in the Price List are just those needed for the MECCANO 1931-34 No.3. (The Ship's Funnel is not in the List and was the only part dropped from the MECCANO No.3 in 1931.) The exceptions are that the List contains the Crankshaft, and the Pawl & Ratchet Wheel, none of which were needed for the No.3, but doesn't have the Pivot Bolt, #147b, which was needed.

By 1964, as can be seen in OSN 5, the number of parts had increased to 124. Some of the 'missing' ones had been reinstated, mainly Strips, A/Gs, Flat & Braced Girders, and Axles. The new parts included the Wheel Disc 24a, and the 20 with PNs above #166, many of which are illustrated in OSN 5. Most are reasonable additions to increase the potential of the system - the most novel is the 32\*15cm Perforated Plate, #186, which was made of soft aluminium and was meant to be cut to the required size with ordinary

The X Set In fact the Perforated Plate #186 must have been introduced much earlier because it was the main item in the X Set of about 1950. Initially 2 were included, but a third was added when the Scissors that were originally in the outfit, were omitted. Other parts were some 2 dozen N&B, and 33 useful parts including Strips, A/Gs, Brackets, Axles,

and 2 of the small Rubber Wheels.

Material About 1950 the parts were made from aluminium, and bosses were zinc. It isn't known for sure whether steel was used at other times, but probably it was earlier because on the '1950' Price List is 'Kjøp den nye TEKNO i aluminium med gummihjul.' with the last words bold as shown. I think this means 'Buy the new aluminium TEKNO with rubber wheels'. The Flanged Plate bought around 1970 as TEKNO, together with the OSN 5 manual, was steel painted red but was not marked in any way to prove it was TEKNO. Against a change to steel by that time, the parts in the models on the colour covers of the OSN 5 manual are all a light grey. In any case it's probable that the 32\*15cm Plate would have remained aluminium.

The page size of the 1940s Manual is 185\*260mm, and on the back cover is the printer, Johan Solberg Trykk, Oslo.

WISDOM/MEKANIK Set A hybrid WISDOM/ MECHANIC set was noted in 25/739, and now David Hobson has kindly lent me another he has found. But this time it is a No.2, and destined for Sweden. The box is 24\*31½\*2cm in the usual WISDOM style, with a see-through lid. On its dark red border is WISDOM & SAGESSE as before, and on the black sides are '2' in a circle and K. MM 192. The style of the parts tray is as in OSN 25, and the parts and their colour scheme also correspond except that in this case the 5h Strips are still nickel. The contents are as in MCS (with the ½" plastic Pulley but no 5/8" Fixed Pulley nor 21/4" small diameter Rods).

The Model Leaflet is in the MECHANIC style and has the OSN 25 maker & copyright date, but the name on the front is MEKANIK LÅDA (Låda means building set), with 'BYGG-OCH KONSTRUKTIONS SYSTEM' between the 2 words. The top half is shown below, and also has NO.06-312 on it. The only other text, the names of the models, is in English. I shall note the system as MEKANIK LADA to avoid confusion with all the

With a few minor changes, the 20 models are as in an old 'red/green' leaflet, except that the THREE WHEEL TRUCK now has 4 Wheels & is called a TAREE WHEEL TRUCK.



QUERY 27 The part below right, 1/2-fullsize, was found in a

mixed lot. It is painted red, with 4.1mm Ø holes at 12.7mm pitch, except that the top vertical pair are at 13mm, & the pitch of the bottom corner holes is about 51.5mm. The only similar shape that came to mind was the South African MAAKEETS #35 Univ. Construction Trunnion, which in MCS is said to have 4.2mm holes at 12.7mm pitch. It's been said that MAAKEETS parts weren't very



well made so perhaps that explains the differences, but if anyone has any MAAKEETS some details would be very welcome, or is there a similar part in another system? None of the other pieces in the lot seemed to be MAAKEETS.

By chance a few days after finding the part I discovered two similar in the bottom of a box of unknowns. The hole spacings are identical but the holes are 4.3mm and the finish is BZP. The outside shape has slipped down slightly in relation to the holes so there is about 1mm more metal under the bottom holes and correspondingly less above the apex hole. Two phases for MAAKEETS were noted in 14/367, and in one the parts on the cover of a manual are shown red & green. It would be a great & happy coincidence if my red part was from one period and the BZP ones from the other.

A Small Norwegian TEKNO Set Some notes based on TEKNO 'paper' items were given in 5/102 & 26/769, but now a No.00 set is to hand, complete apart from the Cord. There is nothing positive to indicate its age but by repute it is from the early 1950s. The Set has all steel pieces, including one part, the #126b Corner Bracket, that was in the 1964 List but not in the OSN 26 '1940s' & '1950s' material. So this Set may well have come after the 'aluminium' period. The only mention of other sets is a reference to a No.000 on the back of the box.

**Packaging**. The parts are in a white tray which slides into the sleeve below. It is 22\*12¾\*2½cm, and has 'TEKNO SETT – NR. 00' on its side. Two small 'matchboxes', 5½\*3½\*1¾cm, with 'TEKNO smådeler skruer og muttere' in white on their blue tops, house the small parts and the N&B.



The Parts are generally well made but are mostly rather thinner than normal. All except the bosses are nickel plated with a very bright & shiny finish. They mostly resemble MECCANO or where different, are like their illustrations in MCS & OSN 5. The main features not in the panel (top right) are noted in the list of the parts below - quantities in the Set are given in curly Brackets. The inventory is very similar to the prewar MECCANO No.00, but with a few changes including 2 of the A/Bs replaced by Corner Brackets, and 10 extra N&B.

- **Thickness** of parts. Most are between .5 & .6mm thick, but the DAS & 11h Strips are .8mm, and the 5h Strips 1.3mm.
- Ends & corners are fully radiused, or nearly so for the Strips.
- Strips. The 5 & 11h {6,4} are 12.7mm wide. The DAS {2} is 64½mm long o/a (near the early MECCANO pattern). The Curved Strip {2} is like M90a but without the joggles and at 8.3mm, the slots are a little longer.
- The **Flanged Plate** {1} is as shown in OSN 5, with four flanges and both slots of normal width.
- $\bullet$  **Trunnions** {2 + 2 Flat}. Compared to MECCANO they are smaller by 1mm in width & 1.2mm in height, and their rounded tops are noticeably flatter.
- Brackets. The Flat Bracket {4} has a 4.3mm hole, an 8.8mm slot, and 3.8mm of metal outside the round hole. The A/B {6} is made from the Flat one and has arms of nearly

equal length, rather like the MÄRKLIN part. The 2h deep D/B, #44, {1} is made from a thinner 5h Strip. The Reversed A/B {1} has 3.4mm of metal outside the slotted hole. The #126b Corner Bracket {2}, right, has 4.3mm holes — it is not illustrated in any known literature nor, as far as can be seen, is it used in any manual models.



• The **Pulley** {4} is 28.8mm o.d. and 5.0mm wide. The **Bush Wheel** {1} is 35.6mm Ø with a recessed centre to accommodate the peening. The pcd of the 8 holes is 26mm.

• The Axles are 50 & 90mm long {2 each}. The Crank

## **Leading Particulars**

Name TEKNO

Country Norway

Maker Tekno A.S, En Gros Forhandler, Thormod Walderhaug A.S.

**History** From perhaps c1930 to after 1964.

Hole pitch 12.7mm. Hole dia. 4.2mm (a few 4.1/4.3mm).

**Sets** 000-3; 0A-3A; Universal; X; K1, Eifeltårn; K2, Havne+kran; K.III, Heisekran m/d grabb; K.IV, Gravemask.

**Material/Finish** Bare aluminium around 1950, otherwise steel. Parts nickeled after the aluminium phase, and a red Flanged Plate was bought in 1970.

**Boss** Brass, 9.7mm o.d., 4.09mm bore, 10mm long, double-tapped <sup>5</sup>/<sub>32</sub>" BSW. Deeply recessed peening.

**Fixing** Nickeled steel <sup>5</sup>/<sub>32</sub>" BSW N&B. Nuts are square, 6.3mm A/F & 2mm thick. Bolts have round heads, 6.8mm Ø, & are 6.3 & 19mm u/h.

**Axles** & Crank Handle: 3.95mm Ø nickeled steel with sheared ends.

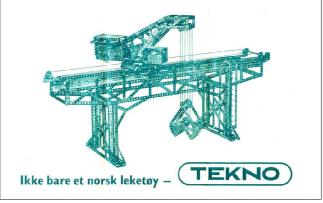
DP

Motors 1 C/W (#183); 1 Electric (#187).

Handle {1} is 130mm long o/a but is otherwise like M19s.

- N&B {30 Nuts, 26 Bolts, & 4 Long Bolts}. Grub Screws, #69, {5} are fitted to the bosses. The wire Screwdriver is 135mm long o/a and its somewhat smaller than usual handle (see 5/102) is 38mm long & 28mm wide.
- The **Spring Clip** {4} is like M35 but somewhat pointed at the top. The slightly unusual **Hook** (#57, see 5/102) is stamped from 1.6mm thick flat steel, and is 31mm long o/a.

The Manual, in Norwegian, has 8 unnumbered pages, 297\*183mm, all printed in dark green on white. It is folded into three to fit in the box. No mention is made of the maker's name or address. The front cover below is followed by an Introduction on p2, identical to that in the OSN 5 manual, but with a slightly revised layout. Then 12 No.00 models on pp3-4, from Godsvogn (Goods Wagon) to Kappsag (Circular Saw), and 17 No.0 models on pp5-7, from Personvogn (Passenger Coach) to Boretårn (Drilling Rig). The back cover, p8, has a photo of a large Excavator, and the printer's name, Hestholms Boktrykkeri, Oslo.



There is a photo & a title for each model and they are all identical to those for Sets 00 & 0 in the OSN 5 manual.

The manual has no Parts List or Set Contents but a printed slip found in the box gives the PNs of the parts in the Set 00 and their quantities. Perhaps there was originally an Illustrated Parts List to go with it.

Since the notes on a No.00 set with nickelled parts in 29/869 photos of 3 sets have been seen on Ebay.

Two No.0 Outfits with Aluminium Parts. Both are

fawn with the lid right and it is thought that they may date from the 1940s. Their size was given as 32.4\*19.5cm, and the lid is signed Coucheron – Olaf Coucheron, a well known Norwegian illustrator. Neither set is complete, the parts are loose in the box on a grey backing board in one

box, on a grey backing board in one case. The Axles and N&B look to be steel, as in the small parts box right. Notice in this figure that the Spring Clips have square tips (as did those in the OSN 29 set). All the other parts are as would have been expected except that: • the disc of the Bush Wheel is flat, without the recessed centre of the part in the OSN 29 set (and in Fig.3 here); • the Nuts are hexagonal rather than square.

The Sets have some parts not in the 00, most noticeably: • Rubber Rings (#177) for the Pulleys • a Rubber Wheel (#178) of about ¾" Ø, as in Fig.2, which pushes onto the Axles; • a 15mm brass Pulley with Boss (#23a), next to the Trunnion is Fig.3.

As far as can be seen these sets have the same contents as the 'nickel' No.0 to be described next.

One set has no manual, the other has the cover shown in 26/769 but without the wording along the top and with 'KVALITETS KONSTRUKSJONS SETT' under the framed area. One page

of No.0 models was shown and it is identical to a page in the manual with the 'Dockside' cover described in 5/104 except that none of the models are titled.

A No.0 Set with Nickelled Parts. It is shown right and from the packaging it is probably from towards the end of TEKNO's life, the late 1960s perhaps. The parts include the Rubber Wheel, as mentioned earlier (near the bottom corners of the Flanged Plate) and the 15mm Pulley (by the Trunnion). The manual has the 5/104 'Dockside' cover, and has a Set Contents slip lying on it).

From that Slip & a similar one from the OSN 29 No.00, the Set Contents for Set 00 & 0 are as follows (the parts are generally similar to MECCANO unless noted).

**#2**, 11h Strip: 2,4; **#5**, 5h Strip: 6,9; **#10**, Flat Bracket: 4,4;

**#11**, D/B: 0,2;

#12, A/B: 6,8;

#16, 9cm Axle: 2,2;

**#17**, 5cm Axle: 2,2;

#19s, Short Crank Handle: 1,1;

**#22**, 30mm Ø Pulley: 4,4; **#23a**, 15mm Fast Pulley: 0,1;





**#24**, Bush Wheel: 1,1; **#34**, Spanner, 2-ended: 0,1;

#35, Spring Clip: 4,6;

**#36**, Screwdriver: 1,1; **#37**, Nut: 30,40;

**#37b**, Bolt: 26,34; **#37c**, <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" Bolt: 4,6; **#40**, Cord: 1,1;

**#44**, 2h high D/B: 1,1; **#48a**, 1\*5\*1h DAS: 2,2;

**#52**, Flanged Plate: 1,1;

**#56**, Manual: 1,0; **#57**, 'S' Hook: 1,1;

**#69**, Grub Screw: 5,6;

**#90a**, Curved Strip, flat: 2,4; **#125**, Reversed A/B: 1,2;

**#126**, Trunnion: 2,2;

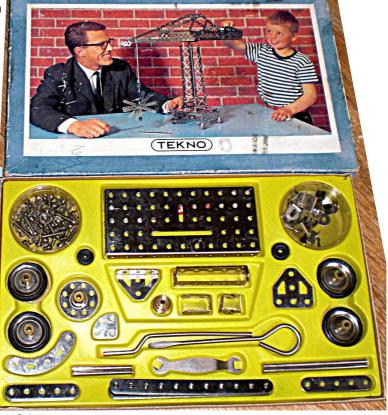
#126a, Flat Trunnion: 2,2;

**#126b**, 1\*1h Corner Bracket: 2,4; **#178**, Small Rubber Wheel: 0,2;

**#177**, Rubber Ring for #22: 0,4.

**Another Manual**. An Ebay item had a selection of parts with 2 manuals. One with 16 pages plus covers and the 'Dockside' cover, was probably as in OSN 5. The other had 8 pages plus covers and the same cover but printed in red &

white. Its two 00 model pages were shown, again in red on white, and their models were identical to those in the OSN 5 version except that the bottom right corner of the second page was blank without the Loco & Tender models. (It was not noted in describing the 'Gantry Crane' manual in OSN 29, but the Loco & Tender models are similarly omitted from its second page of 00 models.)



TEKNO

Ikke bare et

Innholdsfortegnelse

for TEKNO byggesett 0